

**May 2008** - In April 2006, mass demonstrations during Jana Andolaan II (People's Movement) led to the restoration of democracy in Nepal.



Two years later Nepal has taken its next significant step in the peace process with the generally peaceful Constituent Assembly election held on April 10, 2008. Youth who were instrumental in reinstating democracy during Jana Andolaan II have been playing both positive and negative roles in the on-going transition. One of the important challenges of this post-election period is to educate youth on democratic practices, political tolerance, and non-violent means of political expression.

On April 23, 2008, with USAID/OTI assistance, Social Organization for Liberal Volunteer Engagement Nepal (SOLVEN) organized a day-long cultural, awareness-raising event to mark the second anniversary of Jana Andolaan II and the successful Constituent Assembly elections.



The objective of the event was to inform youth about the importance of democracy and the peace process through various cultural programs. Through songs, poems, and other cultural events, the event emphasized the role of youth in the New Nepal. By actively connecting youth to the peace process, the hope is they will be less likely to engage in disruptive activities.

USAID/OTI support for the anniversary event was approved in less than three days, and the event was organized quickly by SOLVEN. Activities included an exhibit of photographs from Jana Andolaan II, speeches, a concert, poem recitations, and street dramas, all focusing on the positive role that youth should play in promoting democracy.

The program was a success with more than 8,000 people attending the concert and events. Although the program targeted youth, people of all ages enjoyed the celebration, with elderly dancing alongside young people. People could also be seen observing the event from outside the venue—standing on the rooftops across the street. The popular event provided an excellent platform to reinforce the messages of peace and democracy that originated with Jana Andolaan II.